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ABSTRACT

Provided is a sample survey form for identifying architectural barriers in any building or area that needs to be accessible for the handicapped. The checklist covers the following areas: offstreet parking, on street parking, passenger loading zone, approach to selected entrance, entrance doors, elevators-escalators, essential areas, access from entry to essential areas, public toilets, drirking fountains, public telephones, interiors, and assistance and aids available. Also given is a list of publications on the concept of barrier-free environment which are available from the National Easter Seal Society for Crippled Children and Adults. (SBH)

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HOW TO CONDUCT A

BARRIER SURVEY

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EC 101161

INTRODUCTION

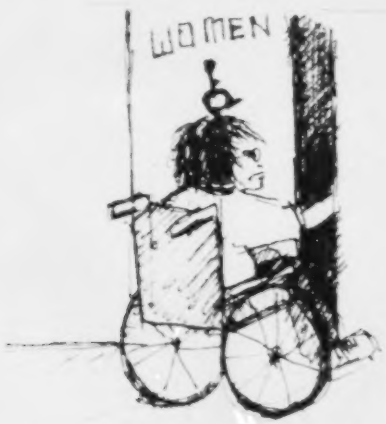
This material has been developed for the use of any organization wishing to conduct a survey of architectural barriers. The text may be used as an introduction to the concept of architectural barriers for volunteers used in the survey. Sources of volunteer surveyors that other groups have used are: scout troops, fraternities, sororities, church committees, garden clubs, and civic groups.

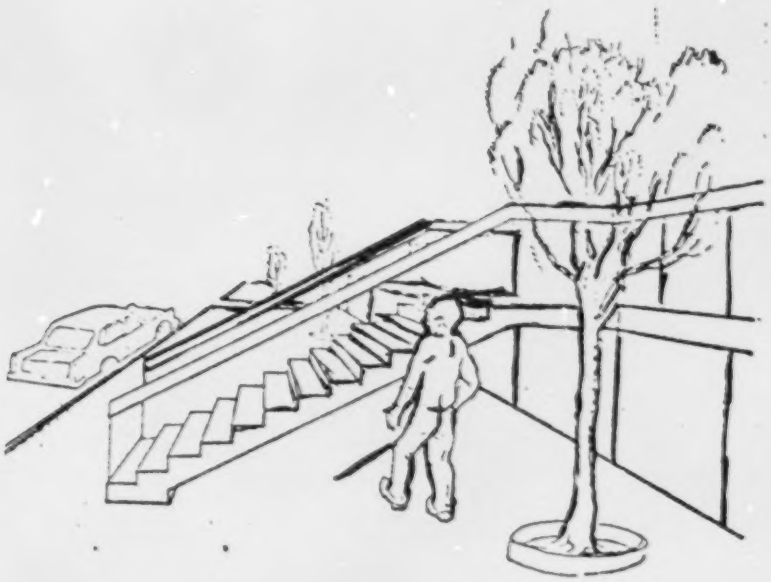
Architectural barriers are all around us. The able-bodied individuals do not recognize architectural barriers, but disabled individuals do.

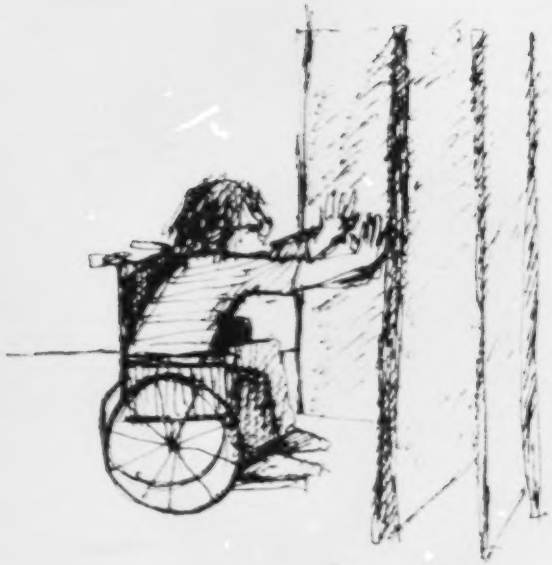
What is an architectural barrier? Architectural barrier is a catchall term to describe any aspect of our man-made environment that impedes free movement within the environment.

To identify architectural barriers all features of the area must be examined with the following question in mind: "Can a person with impaired mobility, visual, or aural difficulties use this area?"

The following sketches should provide an idea of some of the barriers that the survey form will help identify.







The following form will enable you to survey any building or area that needs to be made accessible for architectural barriers.

After completing the survey form you will have the data needed for comparison with the ANSI (or other) standards for building accessibility, and a rough idea of how much work each building needs.

After determining how much work a building will need to be made accessible, decide in what order the buildings need be modified.

Once you have this information prepared, you are ready to speak to whatever individual or group that is responsible for the facility that most urgently needs modification.

SURVEY TO DEVELOP A HANDBOOK OF BUILDING ACCESSIBILITY FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Name of Building_____Phone No._____

Street Address_____City_____

State_____Zip_____Date_____

Name of person interviewed_____Title_____

Name of Interviewer_____Organization_____

Circle answers or complete answer in space provided

1. OFFSTREET PARKING (If more than one, select the one with the least barriers)

a) Is an offstreet parking area available adjacent to the building? Yes No

b) Access to the parking area is from_____street.

c) Give any height restriction for vehicles. _____ft._____in.

d) Is the parking area controlled by a:
- ☐ Ticket machine
- ☐ Attendant
- ☐ Valet parked
- ☐ Free

e) If "employee" parking only, can arrangements be made for handicapped users to have use of facility? Yes No

f) If yes, give number to call. _____

If there are specifically marked handicapped spaces, the following three questions refer to them. Otherwise, they refer to parking areas in general.

g) Are there specifically marked handicapped parking spaces? Yes No

h) How wide are they? _____

i) What is the location in relation to the entrance,(give approximate distance to entrance)_____

_____

j) Is the surface of the parking area hard (no sand or gravel?) Yes No

k) If no, what is surface material? _____

l) Is parking area level? Yes No

m) What is the slope of the parking area? ☐None ☐Slight ☐Moderate ☐Steep

n) Is the surface of the parking area reasonably free from cracks or holes? Yes No

o) How well is the parking lot illuminated at night?
☐No lighting
☐Poor lighting
☐Good lighting

p) Is the route from the parking space to the entrance accessible (no curbs, steps, or steep ramps)? Yes No

q) Does a person have to move behind parked cars? Yes No

2. ON STREET PARKING

a) Parking adjacent to the building is permitted on (name street). _____

b) Is on street parking meter controlled? Yes No

c) What is the maximum allowable time period for parking? _____hrs._____min.

d) Are there any spaces reserved for the handicapped? Yes No

e) Are there curb cuts between parking and entrance? Yes No

3. PASSENGER LOADING ZONE

This is a space convenient to the building reserved for cars or public transit to pick up or discharge passengers. The passenger loading zone might be along side the street, or it might be a front, side, or rear driveway. To qualify as a passenger loading zone there should be no parking allowed, but standing parking is allowed. If there is more than one select the one with the least barriers between it and the entrance.

a) There is a passenger loading zone on _____street NA

b) In relation to the nearest accessible entrance it is located (describe route and distance)_____
_____

c) Is there a curb ramp from zone to sidewalk? Yes No

d) If yes, what is the width of the ramp? _____ins.

e) Is the zone protected from the weather? Yes No

4. APPROACH TO SELECTED ENTRANCE

This includes the entire route from the parking area or passenger loading zone to the nearest accessible entrance of the building.
Part I.

a) What is the width of the walk? _____ins.

b) Is the walk constructed of firm, fixed non-slip material? Yes No

c) If no, what is surface material? _____

d) Is the walk of a continuing common surface not interrupted by steps or abrupt changes in level? If yes, skip to Part II. Yes No

e) If no, is there a ramp provided? Yes No

f) If yes, what is the width of the ramp? _____

g) What is the slope: ☐slight ☐moderate ☐steep.

h) Is there a minimum of a 5'0" X 5'0" flat and clear area before and after ramp? Yes No

i) Does ramp have handrails? Yes No

j) What is height of the handrail? _____ins.

k) Does handrail extend past top of ramp? Yes No

l) If yes, how far? Top_____ins. Bottom _____ins.

m) Does ramp have a curb? Yes No

Part II

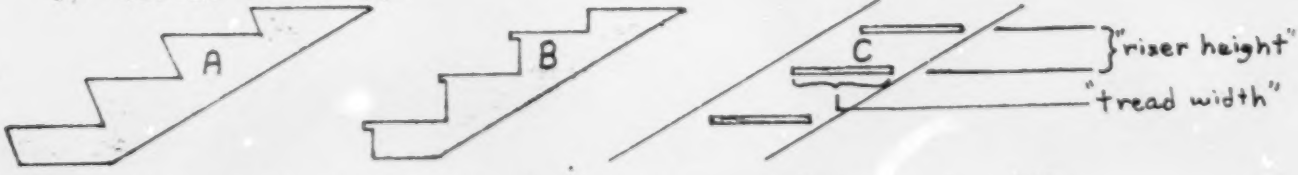
a) Which entrance was selected as most accessible? (i.e. North entrance, "Smith Street", etc.) _____

b) Is most accessible entrance also the main entrance? Yes No

If the most accessible entrance is not the main entrance, rate both the most accessible entrance as well as the main entrance.

		Most Accessible	Main Entrance
c)	Is the approach to the entrance door at ground level?	Yes No	Yes No
d)	If no, state floor level of entrance door.	_____	_____
e)	Is there a ramp in the approach to the entrance door or at the door?	Yes No	Yes No
f)	If yes, what is the width of the ramp?	_____ins.	_____ins.
g)	What is the slope?	☐slight ☐moderate ☐steep	☐slight ☐moderate ☐steep
h)	Is there a minimum of a 5'0" X 5'0" flat and clear area before and after ramp?	Yes No	Yes No
i)	Does ramp have handrails?	Yes No	Yes No
j)	What is height of the handrail?	_____ins	_____ins
k)	Does handrail extend past top of ramp?	Yes No	Yes No
l)	If yes, how far?	Top____ins Bottom___ins	Top____ins Bottom___ins
m)	Does ramp have a curb?	Yes No	Yes No
n)	If there are steps on the approach to the entrance door, give total number.	_____	_____

o) Circle stair type



p)	What is the height of the riser	_____ins	_____ins
q)	What is the width of the tread	_____ins	_____ins

r) Is there a sturdy handrail provided at least on one side of the steps that can be grasped? Yes No Yes No

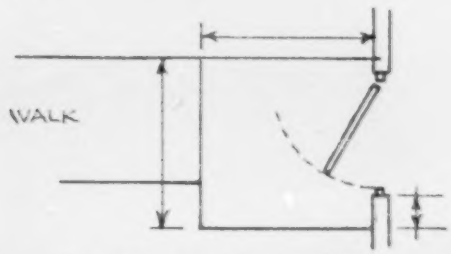
s) What is the height of the handrail ____ins ____ins

t) Do stairs have a non-slip surface? Yes No Yes No

u) Is there a minimum of a 5'0" X 5'0" level and clear area before the door? (Ref. to diagram) Yes No Yes No

v) If no, give dimensions. ____ins.X___ins. ___ins.X___ins.

w) Is there a minimum of 1'0" clear area on lock side of door? (Ref. to diagram) Yes No Yes No

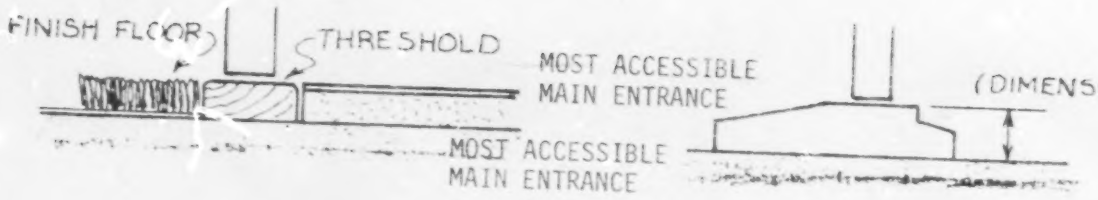


x) How well is the approach illuminated at night? ☐ Not lighted ☐ Poorly ☐ Good ☐ Not lighted ☐ Poorly ☐ Good

5. ENTRANCE DOORS

	Most Accessible	Main Entrance
a) What is the clear width of the entrance door?	____ins	____ins
b) Is the door automatic?	Yes No	Yes No
c) What type of door is it?	☐ Solid ☐ Fully glassed ☐ Half glassed	☐ Solid ☐ Fully glassed ☐ Half glassed
d) If fully glassed, what is the height of the bottom rail?	____ins	____ins

e) What type of door sill?
(Circle type and dimension)



f) What is the pressure required to open the door?

	Most Accessible	Main Entrance
	_____lbs.	_____lbs.

g) Are door mats:

☐ Flush with floor	☐ Flush
☐ Raised above floor	☐ Raised
☐ Not provided	☐ Not Provided

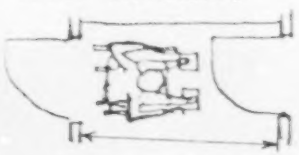
h) Are doors opened with:

☐ Knobs	☐ Knobs
☐ Levers	☐ Levers
☐ Push plates	☐ Push plates
☐ Large "D" pulls	☐ Large "D" pulls
☐ Panic hardware	☐ Panic hardware

i) If there are two consecutive doors in the lobby, what are the dimensions between them?

Most accessible

Main entrance



j) Give number of steps, if any, between entrance and main circulation area.

Most Accessible	Main Entrance
NO._____	NO._____

k) What is the height of the riser? _____ins _____ins

l) What is the width of the tread? _____ins _____ins

m) Are sturdy handrails provided? (at least one)

Yes	No	Yes	No

n) What is the height? _____ins _____ins

o) Does handrail extend past Top/bottom (circle) of stairs

Yes	No	Yes	No

p) If yes, how far?

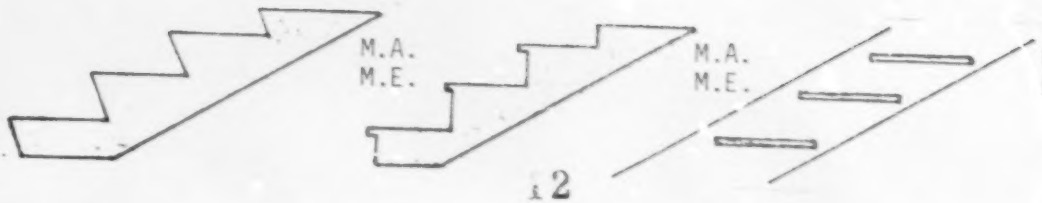
Top___ins Bottom___ins

Top___ins Bottom___ins

q) Circle stair type

Most accessible

Main entrance



r) If there are stairs, is there a ramp? Yes No Yes No

s) If yes, what is the width of the ramp? _____ _____

t) What is the slope? ☐ Slight ☐ Slight
☐ Moderate ☐ Moderate
☐ Steep ☐ Steep

u) Is there a minimum of a 5'0" X 5'0" flat and clear area before and after ramp? Yes No Yes No

v) Does ramp have handrails? Yes NO Yes No

w) What is height of the handrail? ____ins _____ins

x) Does handrail extend past top of ramp? Yes No Yes No

y) If yes, how far? Top___ins Top___ins
Bottom___ins Bottom___ins

z) Does ramp have a curb? Yes No Yes No

6. ELEVATORS-ESCALATORS

a) Is there a passenger elevator? Yes No

b) Does it serve all essential areas? "Essential" areas are those portions of the building for which the building was built. Yes No

c) Is there an elevator operator? Yes No

d) Are controls accessible to a seated person? (top button no more than 54" above the floor) Yes No

e) If no, give height of top button. _____ins

f) Give height above floor of the emergency button. _____ins

g) Have buttons tactile numbers on them or Braille numbers alongside? Yes No

h) Give height of emergency phone. NA ____ins

i) What is the size of the elevator? ___ins X ____ins

j) What is the clear dimension of the open door? ____ins

k) Are doors equiped with: ☐ Sensitive leading edge
☐ Electric eye

l) Does elevator have a mirror so that wheel chairs can back out safely? Yes No

m) Does elevator have audio system for the blind? Yes No

n) If passenger elevator is not accessible is there an accessible freight elevator? Yes No

o) If yes, where is it located? _____

_____

p) What is the telephone number if a call has to be placed in advance to use the freight elevator? _____

q) Does it service all essential areas? Yes No

r) Are escalators provided? Yes No

s) If yes, what floors do they serve? _____

t) Where are they located? _____

u) What is the width of the treads? _____ins

v) What is the height of the riser? _____ins

7. ESSENTIAL AREAS

Essential areas include vending rooms, waiting rooms, service points, offices, examination rooms, etc. When schools are surveyed, use separate form (entire) for sport facilities.

Area 1. _____

Area 2. _____

Area 3. _____

Area 4. _____

Area 5. _____

Note: Give location in each case.

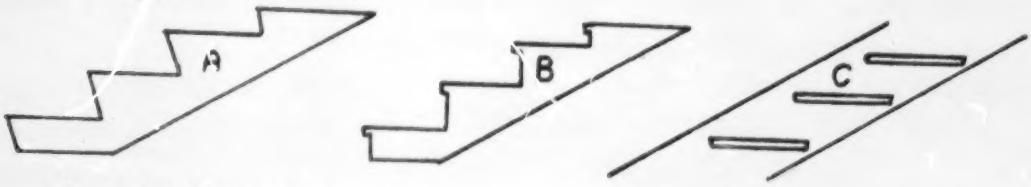
8. ACCESS FROM ENTRY TO ESSENTIAL AREAS

	Area 1		Area 2		Area 3		Area 4		Area 5	
a) Is the usable width of corridor and aisle at least 42"?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No

		Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5
b)	Is the narrowest clear doorway width 32" or more?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
c)	If no, what is the width?	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
d)	What is the surface material of the floor?	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
e)	Does it appear slippery?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
f)	Are there projections into corridors or aisles (telephones, drinking fountains, fire extinguishers, etc.)?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
g)	What is the clear width of the corridor at the projection?	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
h)	Are there any steps between essential areas and elevator?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
i)	If yes, how many	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
j)	What is the height of the riser?	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
k)	What is the width of the tread?	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
l)	Are sturdy handrails provided?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
m)	What is the height?	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
n)	Does handrail extend past top/bottom (circle) of stairs?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No

	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5
o) If yes, how far? Top:					
Bottom:					

p) Circle stair type.



q) If there are stairs, is there a ramp?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
r) If yes, what is the width of the ramp?					
s) What is the slope? slight, moderate, steep?					
t) Is there a minimum of a 5'0" X 5'0" flat amd clear area before and after ramp?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
u) Does ramp have handrails?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
v) What is the height of the handrail?					
w) Does handrail extend past top of ramp?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
x) If yes, how far? Top:					
Bottom:					
y) Does ramp have a curb?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
z) Are there raised letters or numbers or Braille to identify rooms or areas?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No

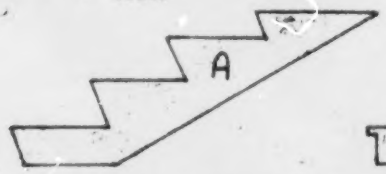
9. PUBLIC TOILETS

a) Where is the most accessible toilet room located?
Men:_____ Women:_____

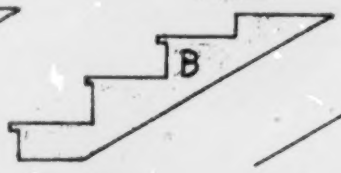
		Men	Women
b)	Would one need to go up or down steps to get to the toilet room?	Yes No	Yes No
c)	What is the height of the riser?	___ins	___ins
d)	What is the width of the tread?	___ins	___ins
e)	Are sturdy handrails provided? (at least one)	Yes No	Yes No
f)	What is the height?	___ins	___ins
g)	Does handrail extend past top/bottom of stairs? (circle)	Yes No	Yes No
h)	If yes, how far?	___ins	___ins

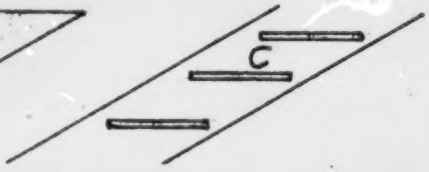
i) Circle stair type.

Men



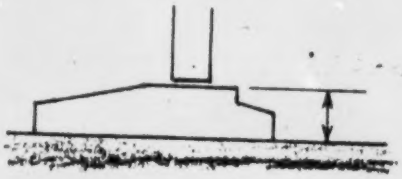
Women



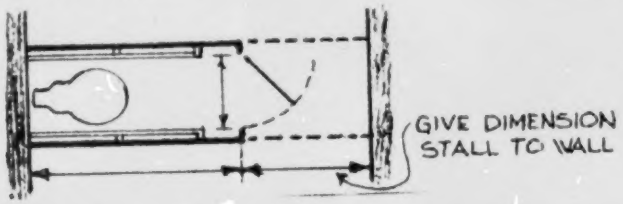


j)	If there are stairs, is there a ramp?	Yes No	Yes No
k)	If yes, what is the width of the ramp?	___ins	___ins
l)	What is the slope? (slight, moderate, steep)	_____	_____
m)	Is there a minimum of a 5'0" X 5'0" flat and clear area before and after ramp?	Yes No	Yes No
n)	Does ramp have handrails?	Yes No	Yes No
o)	What is height of the handrail?	___ins	___ins
p)	Does handrail extend past top of ramp?	Yes No	Yes No
q)	If yes, how far? Top: Bottom:	___ins ___ins	___ins ___ins
r)	Does ramp have a curb?	Yes No	Yes No
s)	What is the clear width of the restroom door?	___ins	___ins
t)	What is the door opening pressure?	___lbs	___lbs

u) What type of door sill? (Circle type and dimension)

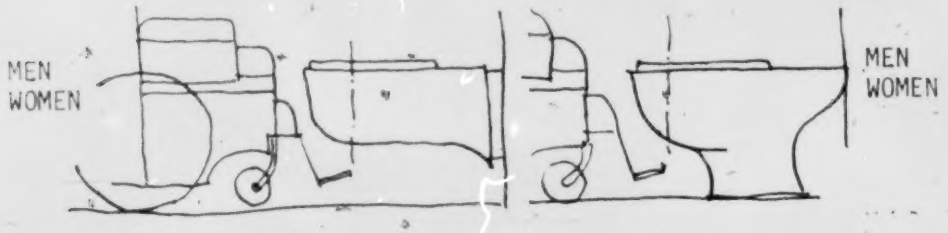


	Men	Women
v) Is there a free space for a wheelchair to turn (5'0" X 5'0" or greater)	Yes No	Yes No
w) What is the width of the most accessible toilet stall door?	___ins	___ins
x) What is the interior width of the stall?	___ins	___ins
y) How deep is the stall?	___ins	___ins



aa) Does the stall have handrails or a grab bar?	Yes No	Yes No
bb) What is the height above the floor?	___ins	___ins
cc) Does the stall door open out?	Yes No	Yes No
dd) Can the foot rest of the wheelchair go below the water closet to allow for transfer?	Yes No	Yes No

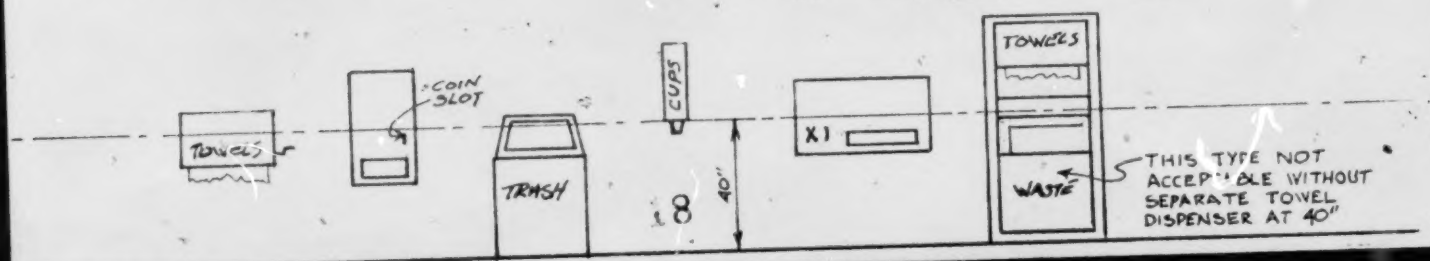
ee) Circle water closet type.
Men 1,2 Women 1,2 or Both



ff) What type of faucet is provided on the lavatory? (lever, knobs, spring, loaded, floor)	_____	_____
gg) Is hot water line and drain insulated or hidden below lavatories?	Yes No	Yes No

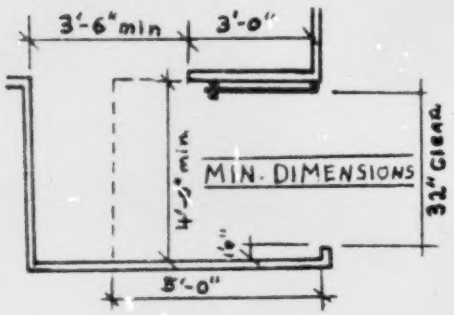
hh) Give height from floor to operable part of: (ref. to diagram)

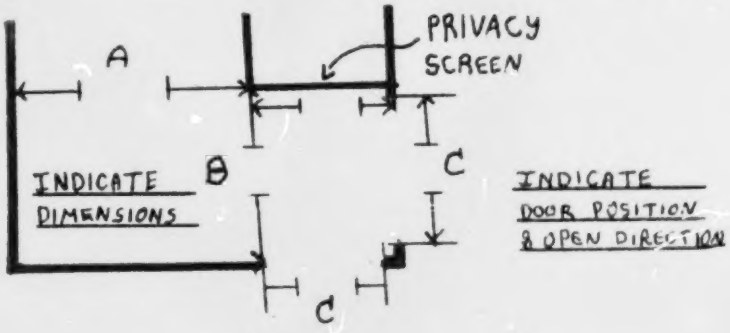
Towel dispenser:	___ins	___ins
Trash can:	___ins	___ins
Mirror:	___ins	___ins
Lavatory:	___ins	___ins



ii) Is there a privacy screen upon entering restroom? If yes, give dimensions and indicate door position and direction of opening.

Yes No Yes No





jj) Are there any obstructions underneath the sink(s) which limit access? If so, describe briefly. _____

Yes No Yes No

10. DRINKING FOUNTAINS.

a) Do water fountains or coolers have up-front spouts and controls? Yes No

b) Are they: ☐ Button controlled ☐ Lever controlled ☐ Twist faucet ☐ Foot operated

c) Are they hand and foot operated? Yes No

d) What type of mounting? ☐ Floor ☐ Wall ☐ Recessed into wall

e) What is the height of the fountain from the floor? _____ins

f) Are paper cups provided? Yes No

g) If fountain is located in an alcove, is opening at least 60" wide? Yes ____ No

h) If no, what is the dimension? _____ins

11. PUBLIC TELEPHONES.

a) Can user use private office phone? Yes No

b) Where is pay phone located? _____

c) What type of phone is provided? ☐ Booth ☐ Wall mounted ☐ Desk

d) If the phone is in a booth, what is the clear width of the door? _____ins

e) What are the dimensions of the booth? _____ins

f) What is the height above the floor of the handset or coin slot, whichever is highest? _____ins

g) What is the length of the cord? _____ins

h) Is the phone operated by: ☐ Dial ☐ Touch button

i) Does phone have amplifying controls for the hard of hearing? Yes No

j) Is the phone number indicated by raised numbers or Braille? Yes No

k) What height above floor is: Coin slot ___ins. Top of dial___ins. Hand set ___ins. Coin return ___ins.

l) Does telephone book shelf or bracket obstruct access by wheelchair users? Yes No

12. INTERIORS

a) Are vending areas accessible to individuals in wheelchairs? Yes NA No

b) Are coin slots, coin returns, and all necessary push buttons and levers less than 40" from floor? Yes No

c) Are selection items listed in Braille? Yes No

d) Are purchased items easily extracted from machines, preferably with one hand? Yes No

e) In dining areas, what is the width of the service lane (distance between tray slide and control railing)? _____ins

f) What is the height of the tray slide from the floor? _____ins

g) What is the distance from the floor to the underside of the restaurant tables? _____ins

h) If there are booths in the restaurant, can a wheelchair be placed at the open end? Yes No

i) Will wheelchair impair traffic flow? Yes No

j) In an auditorium, or meeting space, is there a space for a wheelchair person to sit? Yes No

k) Is there enough clear space in front for persons with walkers or long braces and crutches to move to a seat? Yes No

l) In any facility, is there a turnstyle that could prevent access? Yes No

m) If yes, is there an alternate entrance? Yes NA No

n) If yes, where is it located? _____

13. ASSISTANCE AND AIDS AVAILABLE

a) Is there help available for those needing assistance? Yes No

b) If no, is help available if call is made in advance? Yes No

c) If yes, give number. _____

d) Are wheelchairs available? Yes No

e) Are instructional tape records and material available? Yes No

f) Is written instructional material available? Yes No

g) Are showcases, counters, etc., visible from a seated position? Yes No

14. EMERGENCY PROVISIONS

a) Are visual fire alarms provided? Yes No

b) Are audio fire alarms provided? Yes No

c) Is fire alarm mechanism:

- ☐ Button
- ☐ Lever
- ☐ Break glass and push button
- ☐ Other_____

_____

d) What is the height from floor to alarm mechanism? _____ins

e) Is there a posted fire plan? Yes No

f) Are all emergency exits accessible to persons in wheelchairs? Yes No

g) Are door handles Brailled if door opens to steps or dangerous area (for benefit of blind persons)? Yes No

COMMENTS:

We recommend the following publications to anyone who is interested in the concept of barrier-free environment: (Available from THE NATIONAL EASTER SEAL SOCIETY FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN AND ADULTS).

FROM PROBLEM TO SOLUTION: THE NEW FOCUS IN FIGHTING ENVIRONMENTAL BARRIERS FOR THE HANDICAPPED, by Rita McGaughey.*

BARRIER-FREE DESIGN FOR THE DISABLED. Easter Seal Society for Washington.*

*National Easter Seal Society for Crippled Children and Adults, 2023 W. Ogden Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60612

Also see:

BARRIER FREE SITE DESIGN (Stock No. 023-000-00291-4). American Society of Landscape Architects Foundation. Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402

DESIGN FOR THE DISABLED. College of Architecture and Urban Studies, Virginia Polytecnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Va. 24061

ILLUSTRATED HANDBOOK OF HANDICAPPED SECTION OF NORTH CAROLINA STATE BUILDING CODE, By Ronald L. Mace. North Carolina Department of Insurance, P.O. Box 26387, Raleagh, N. C. 27611

A HANDBOOK ON THE LEGAL RIGHTS OF HANDICAPPED PEOPLE. President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, Washington, D. C. 20210

ACCESSIBILITY MODIFICATIONS: GUIDELINES FOR MODIFICATIONS TO EXISTING BUILDINGS FOR ACCESSIBILITY TO THE HANDICAPPED, by Ronald L. Mace. Special Office for the Handicapped, North Carolina Department of Insurance, P.O. Box 26387, Raleigh, N. C. 27611, or Barrier Free Environments, Inc., P.O. Box 53446, Fayetteville, N. C. 28305.

UNIFORM BARRIER FREE DESIGN ACT. President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, Washington, D. C. 20210.

INTO THE MAINSTREAM, by Stephen A. Kliment. American Institute of Architects, 1735 New York Ave., Washington, D. C. 20006